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material life of the Maritime Chukchee, who number approximately 3,000, is completely the same as that of the Eskimo. They use the same leather boat, the kayak, and the metal harpoon with a float made of an inflated sealskin, and many other things. On the other hand the Reindeer Chuckchee are completely nomadic and have shown themselves to be extraordinarily good reindeer breeders. They number only about 9,000, but they have around half a million reindeer. But still reindeer breeding does not appear to have been their original sphere, for many idioms as well as marks of their dwelling indicate that they also once lived on the banks of the sea; reindeer breeding was perhaps taken over later from the neighboring Tungus. Thus, /109/ as Bogoras (37) reports, the interior of the sleeping section of

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37. V. Bogoras. The Chukchee (New York, 1904/1908).

the tent is designated as the "skin of the white bear" by the Reindeer Chukchee, even though at present not bear skin but rather only reindeer skin serves as walls and bed covering both for the Reindeer and the Maritime Chukchee. Peculiar is the belief of the Chukchee that a life after death is attained only by a person who has had a violent death, and it was not long ago that, out of a kind of sympathy, they killed their own people who were weakened by age or unfit for life; this custom is also reported among the North American Eskimo. The Chukchee, Koryak, and Kamchadal generally show many traits related to those of the Indians of northwest America, and it is for this reason that Bogoras classifies as "Americanoid" the entire group of Paleoasiatics, including the Gilyak mentioned earlier.1/ Myths and sagas coincide both in content and in form, often down to details, with those of the northwest American Indians. Accordingly the assumption should not be dismissed that the Chukchee, Koryak, and Kamchadal once were immediate neighbors of the Indians, and that only at a later time did the Eskimo shove in between them.

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The Koryak, now also designated as Nymylan, occupy the northern half of Kamchatka and the adjacent continent. Their number is estimated at around 10,000. Like the Chukchee they are divided in half into the Maritime Koryak and the Reindeer Koryak. The former are sedentary and above all fishermen, and their life approaches in significant measure that of the Eskimo. They also hunt sea animals such as the walrus, the seal, and occasionally also the whale. They are already extensively absorbed into the Russian culture and live

1/ [Cf. cat. 116, pp. 118-119 -- Analyst]